

# MIS Quarterly Executive

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Volume 6 | Issue 1

Article 2

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2-8-2008

## Message from SIM

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### Recommended Citation

Hoving, Ray (2008) "Message from SIM," *MIS Quarterly Executive*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://aisel.aisnet.org/misqe/vol6/iss1/2>

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## MESSAGE FROM SIM

Our industry is faced with a serious staffing dilemma. Student enrollment in IT-related fields has dropped dramatically, while a shortage of skilled IT professionals is imminent. Students think the .com bomb and outsourcing permanently reduced demand for IT labor. Meanwhile, outsourcing has reached saturation without dramatic impact on American jobs, and the demand for IT solutions remains very strong in all business sectors. The situation will be compounded by the retirement of baby boomers who entered the field during the rapid IT expansion of the 70s.

SIM is dealing with this key issue and seeks to partner with academia to turn the tide. In collaboration with Microsoft, SIM has created the Future Potential in IT program. Universities arrange with local SIM chapters to hold career-planning sessions at the school, targeted for students needing to declare a major. The program has been conducted at over 20 colleges, reaching over 4,000 students.

The Memphis chapter began an outreach program called Teen Tech Camp for high schools. The model was adopted by the Philadelphia chapter and now has been packaged for any high school via local SIM chapters.

The SIM Foundation offers scholarships in conjunction with SIM chapters who identify deserving students pursuing a career in IT. A key mission of the foundation is to enhance the educational environment within our industry.

If your academic institution has an interest in participating with any of the programs described here, please connect with a SIM chapter member, call SIM headquarters at (312) 527-6734, or reach me directly.

Please join us for the 2007 SIMposium, to be held October 7—10 in Memphis. Visit [www.SIMnet.org](http://www.SIMnet.org) for more information about the conference or SIM in general.



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